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From: AMEMBASSY, PARIS
To : The Department of State, Washington
Ref : Embassy telegram 4569, April 21, 1955
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Subject: Conversation with General DeGaulle

I have the honor to transmit a memorandum of conversation with General DeGaulle which was the first direct contact the Embassy has had with him in some years. The General was extremely pessimistic as to the present and future position and morale of France and spoke with the discouragement of one who had long tried unsuccessfully to stimulate national ardor but had apparently given up the attempt.

The General's recurrent theme that unless the French could lead the world they were uninterested in anything but their personal affairs undoubtedly reflects his own personal attitude. Nevertheless the Embassy has taken advantage of the current Consular Conference to ask the opinion of our Consuls as to its applicability to the average Frenchman and their consensus is that most Frenchmen today have a notable lack of interest in anything which does not affect them personally.

Douglas Dillon

Enclosure:
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